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December 19, 2022

The team at CCAO, CEBCO, and CORSA wish all our readers a Happy Holidays! Stay safe and remember, Stronger Counties, Stronger Ohio!

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Association and Member News | State and Federal News | Education and Grants | ARPA and BIF Resources | County News | Did You Know? | Job Postings

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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URGENT: Only three weeks remain to review broadband maps

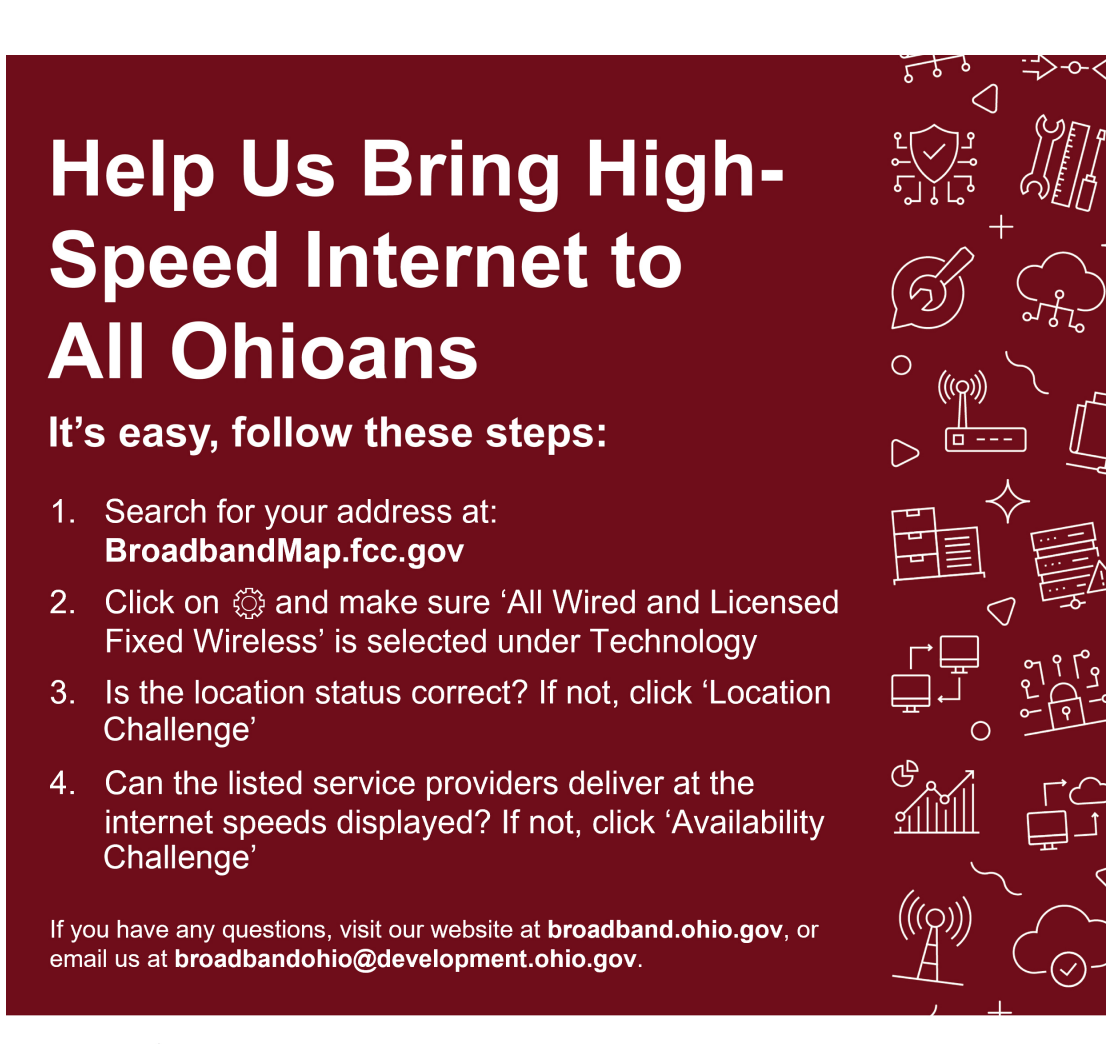
The Federal Communications Commission recently released new broadband maps that **will be used to determine the amount of funding Ohio will receive to expand broadband access throughout the state**. To improve the maps and ensure Ohio receives as much support as possible, we need your help!

You can view the current map through the link above or directly at BroadbandMap.fcc.gov.

By Jan. 13, 2023, we need as many Ohioans as possible to check the federal maps, and if there is an inconsistency, submit supporting information. The FCC has released both an FAQ and the poster displayed below.

BroadbandOhio is urging Ohioans to do the following, in addition to reviewing the maps for their area:

1. Share the email below with all listservs that reach your community, as well as your broader network in Ohio.
2. Share the attached poster on social media, in your office building, and in commonly used spaces in your community.
3. Talk to as many people as you can. The more people who know, the better!



Help Us Bring High-Speed Internet to All Ohioans

It's easy, follow these steps:

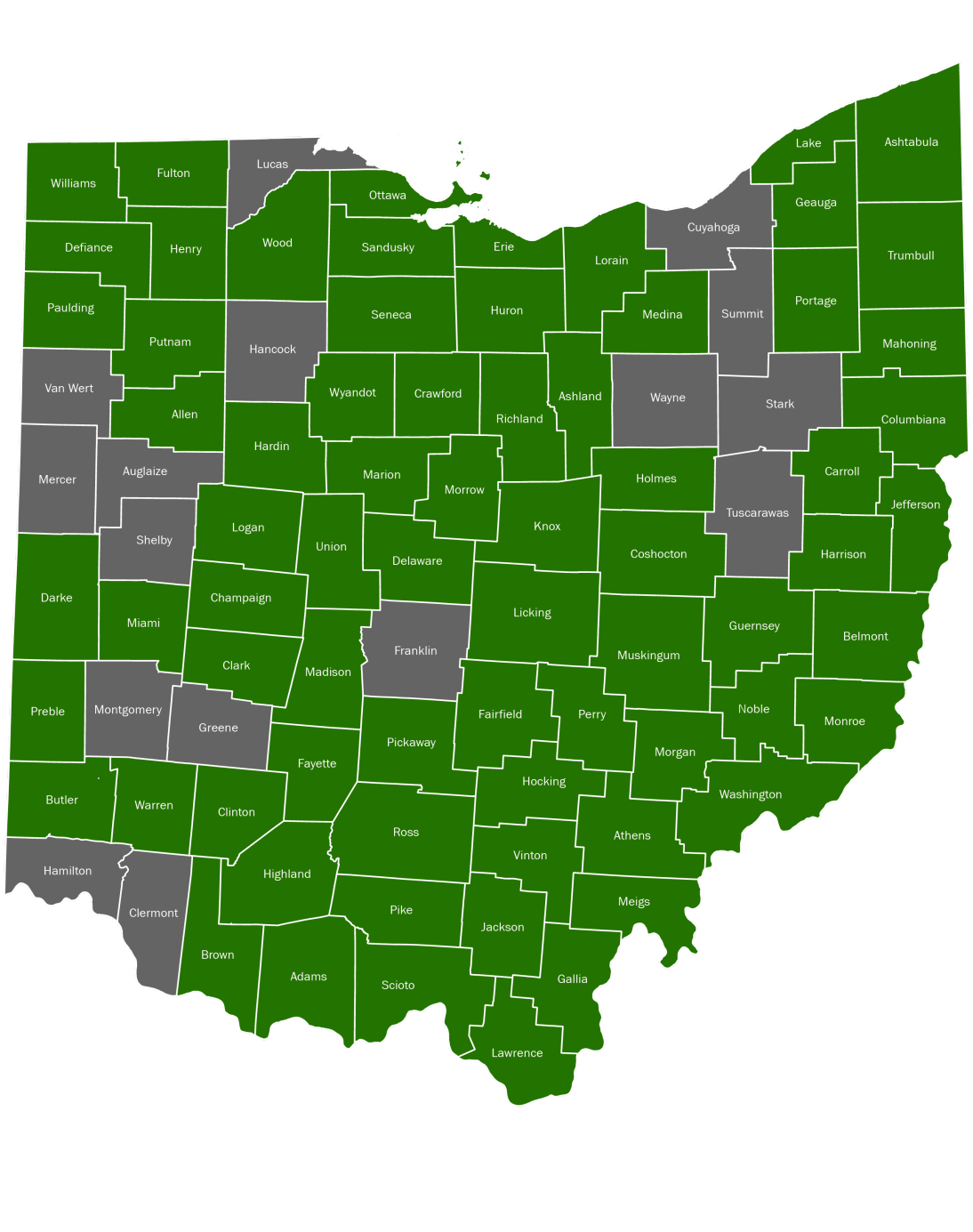
1. Search for your address at: **BroadbandMap.fcc.gov**
2. Click on ⚙ and make sure 'All Wired and Licensed Fixed Wireless' is selected under Technology
3. Is the location status correct? If not, click 'Location Challenge'
4. Can the listed service providers deliver at the internet speeds displayed? If not, click 'Availability Challenge'

If you have any questions, visit our website at **broadband.ohio.gov**, or email us at **broadbandohio@development.ohio.gov**.

CORSA proud to welcome six new members!

Last week it was announced that the Buckeye Joint-County Insurance Council will join CORSA, effective January 1, 2023. We welcome Hocking, Lawrence, Morgan. Noble, and Pike counties to the CORSA pool and look forward to working with you all.

With the new additions to the pool CORSA membership will be 72 counties strong.



Ohio County Employees Retirement Plan stresses value of Retirement Readiness Reviews

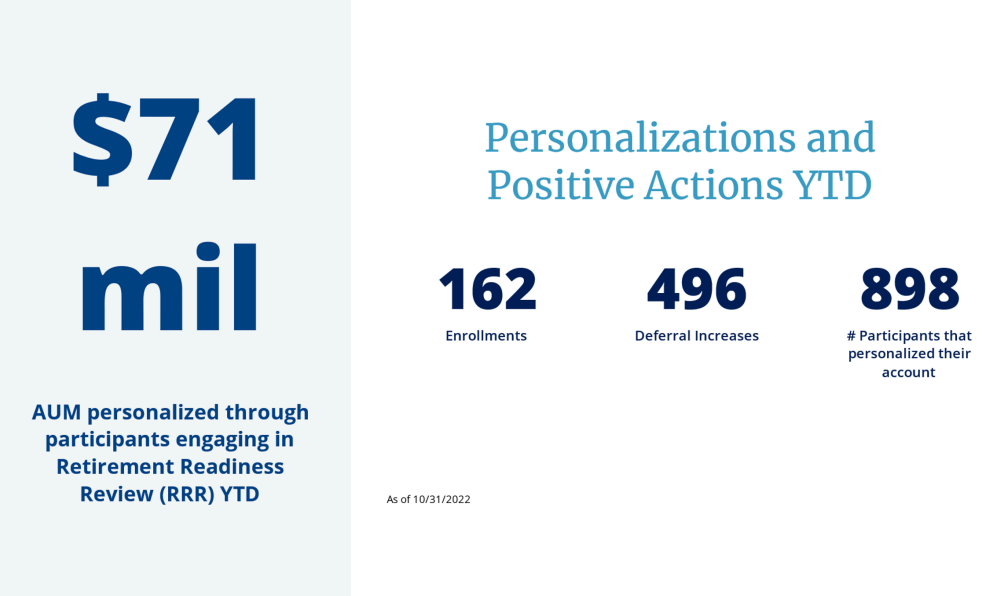
Scheduling a Retirement Readiness Review with an Empower representative is a great way to help ensure employees in your county are on a path to reach long-term goals. Sometimes just talking with someone about specific needs and unique situation is all it takes to feel more comfortable about the progress they're making toward being able to enjoy the future you imagine. When meeting with a representative, your employees will have the opportunity to:

OHIO COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLAN
For the future you imagine

- Evaluate readiness for a successful retirement.
- Review savings and investment strategy.
- Learn more about the valuable tools, resources and services that are available.

There's also an opportunity to ask questions about a broader financial picture to help ensure each individual is taking a big-picture approach to their overall financial well-being.

YTD results (as of 10/31/2022)
Total meetings: 2,489
Retirement Readiness Reviews (RRR's): 1,179



$71 mil

AUM personalized through participants engaging in Retirement Readiness Review (RRR) YTD

Personalizations and Positive Actions YTD

162	496	898
Enrollments	Deferral Increases	# Participants that personalized their account

As of 10/31/2022

County and independent fair schedule for 2023 released

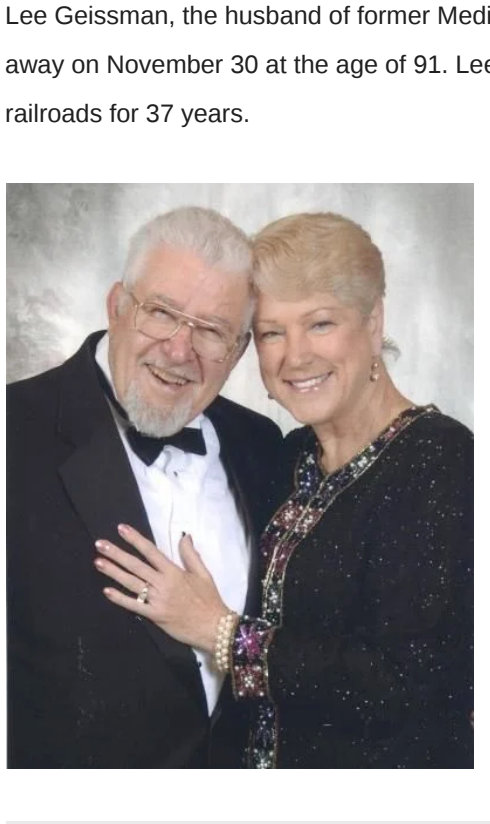
Last week, the Ohio Department of Agricultural released the 2023 schedule of agricultural society fairs. The schedule includes 87 county fairs (Licking County is the only county without a county fair), seven independent fairs, and the Ohio State Fair.

Fair season kicks off in Paulding County from June 12 - June 17 and wraps up in Fairfield County from October 8 - October 14. The Ohio State Fair will be held from July 26 - August 6.

You can view the complete schedule here.

Husband of former Medina County Commissioner Pat Geissman passes away

Lee Geissman, the husband of former Medina County Commissioner Pat Geissman, passed away on November 30 at the age of 91. Lee grew up in New Washington, Ohio, and worked for railroads for 37 years.



He was also active in a number of local organizations, such has the Lodi United Methodist Church, the Society for Handicapped Citizens, the Medina County Kidney Foundation, the American Cancer Society's Smoking Cessation Program, and participated with his sons in the Lodi Boy Scout Troop.

Lee and Pat were married in 1957 and celebrated their 65th anniversary in May. Lee is survived by Pat, the couple's four sons, and five grandchildren.

Left: Lee and Pat Geissman in 2011

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Governor signs executive order allowing immediate adoption of Department of Developmental Disabilities retention payment procedures

Last Thursday, Governor Mike DeWine signed Executive Order 2022-15D to allow a proposed rule by the Department of Developmental Disabilities to take immediate effect.

The rule, 5123-9-05, establishes requirements and processes for the awarding of retention payments to direct support professionals providing certain services to individuals enrolled in home and community-based services waives administered by the department.

ORC Section 119.03(G) allows the Governor, if requested by a state agency, to suspend the normal rule-making procedure for a specific rule when an emergency exists. When the Governor does so, the agency may immediately adopt, amend, or rescind the rules in question; however, the changes are only valid for 120 days, at which point they revert to the existing rule.

The Department of Developmental Disabilities requested the determination of an emergency based on the staffing crisis facing the department's workforce. By signing the executive order, Governor DeWine determined that such an emergency exists and allows the immediate adoption of the rule.

The executive order further states that the rule will expire 120 days after the signing of the order (given the order was signed on December 15, this means it would expire on April 14) or until the rule completes the normal adoption process through the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). If the 120 days lapse before JCARR completes its review, the committee may still adopt the rule.

DeWine-Husted Administration announces latest awards of three grant programs

Last week the DeWine-Husted Administration awarded $129.9 million in grants under three grant programs: the Ohio First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Program ($28 million), the Ohio Body-Worn Camera Grant Program ($4.9 million), and the Ohio Brownfield Remediation Program ($88 million).

First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience
Seventy-two first responder agencies received an award under the First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Program. Eight of these agencies were county entities, which were awarded a total of $2,155,987:

Coshocton County EMS: $29,998
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and Communications Center: $616,422
Harrison County Sheriff's Office: $31,460
Marion County Sheriff's Office: $144,980
Meigs County 911: $6,000
Meigs County EMS: $6,000
Sandusky County EMS: $1,217,627
Union County Sheriff's Office: $103,500

You can view a summary of all the awards issued last week here.

Body-Worn Cameras
The funding awarded under the Body-Worn Camera Program went to 112 law enforcement agencies, 44 of which will use the funding to create body camera programs while the other 68 will use the funding for expanding existing programs or updating existing technology. Ten of these agencies were sheriff's offices, totaling $594,028 of the total award:

Butler County Sheriff: $168,053 (new program)
Erie County Sheriff: $43,767
Guernsey County Sheriff: $10,512 (new program)
Henry County Sheriff: $10,049
Medina County Sheriff: $16,490
Pike County Sheriff: $67,980 (new program)
Portage County Sheriff: $141,931 (new program)
Scioto County Sheriff: $9,344
Seneca County Sheriff: 58,889 (new program)
Washington County Sheriff: $67,013

You can view the full list of agencies that received awards here.

Brownfield Remediation
The grants awarded under the Brownfield Remediation Program awarded the remaining funds of allocated to the grant program. There were 123 projects supported under the awards distributed last week. Fifty-one grants went to brownfield assessment projects while the remaining 72 went to brownfield cleanup projects.

The cumulative total of the project awarded $350 million in grants to 313 projects statewide. You can view a map that shows the counties that received funding for projects and a summary of the projects funded through the most recent round of awards through the links above.

CCAO thanks the DeWine-Husted Administration and the General Assembly for creating and funding these transformative grant programs. They will improve public safety and foster economic growth across the state. If your county has received an award from these programs, either in the most recent rounds discussed above or in earlier rounds, we encourage you to reach out to your legislators and the Governor's office to show your appreciation. Conveying the importance of these programs is the best way to ensure that the state continues funding vital programs like these and the other grant programs that have been run in the last two years.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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Visit the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website for a detailed listing of open grant programs.

PNC Bank to host economic forecasting webinar

On January 12, PNC Bank will be hosting a webinar entitled, "Forecasting Ohio's Economic and Political Climate." The webinar will focus on Ohio's economy, the work of the State Treasurer's office, and upcoming legislative changes that may affect the state's economic landscape.

The webinar will be hosted by Robert E. Dailey, the Executive VP and Managing Director of PNC Public Finance and will feature as speakers Robert Sprague, the Ohio Treasurer of State, kurt Rankin, a senior economist for PNC, and Brian Hicks, the President and CEO of Hicks Partners, LLC.

Registration for the webinar is free and can be completed here.

CCAO recommends counties register staff for the webinar to hear from experts on what the state can expect in the new year.

State and Federal grant overview

There are a number of state and federal grants whose application deadline is in January that CCAO believes would be beneficial to counties and the communities they serve. They are as follows, ordered by application deadline:

- **STATE**: Ohio Drug Law Enforcement Fund Grant (Deadline January 5)
  - To defray the expenses of a drug task force incurred by performing functions related to illegal drug activity.
- **FEDERAL**: Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration (January 5)
  - To provide assistance to entities to encourage conservation, restoration, research, and management of fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes Basin. NOTE: Only available to counties in the Lake Erie Basin.
- **FEDERAL**: Farm to School Grant (January 6)
  - To assist entities through grants and technical assistance in implementing farm-to-school programs that improve access to local foods.
- **FEDERAL**: Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grants (January 9)
  - Two separate programs, one to increase awareness of the Affordable Connectivity Program among low-income households and one to facility the promotion of the program by providing assistance in completing the application.
- **STATE**: Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant (January 15)
  - To assist small, volunteer fire departments with the purchasing of equipment and funding of projects.
- **STATE**: Serving, Educating, and Empowering Fathers (January 20)
  - To support the well-being of Ohioans by strengthening families and promoting stability by serving fathers who are eligible for TANF.

You can see other grant opportunities at CCAO's Funding and Grant Opportunities page.

ARPA and BIL RESOURCES

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This section of Counties Current will be a permanent fixture for the foreseeable future to help counties with the ins and outs of the American Rescue Plan Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These two laws provide a once-in-a-generation investment.

Resources for ARPA Reporting and Compliance

The most recent version of the US Treasury Reporting Guidance was published September 20, 2022. Counties and other local governments with populations greater than 250,000 or ARPA distributions greater than $10 million are required to file Project and Expenditure Reports no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter throughout the grant period. Other recipients will file Project and Expenditure Reports annually by April 30.

Members are urged to consult resources from US Treasury, NACo, and the Ohio Office of Budget and Management for more information about reporting and how to use ARPA funds. CCAO maintains a list of ARPA links and resources, including a comparison of state and federal procurement laws, at the ARPA Resources page.

Ohio Ethics Commission issues statement regarding stimulus funds

Last week the Ohio Ethics Commission released a statement ensuring that public officials are aware that stimulus funds, such as those received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act and the funds that communities will receive under Governor Mike DeWine's Appalachian investment program, are public funds and that conflict of interest laws must be observed.

To that effect, the Commission also recirculated its Advisory Opinion No. 2009-006, issued in 2009 regarding stimulus funds made available to governments under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It provides a more in-depth examination of potential conflicts of interest with stimulus funds, including a discussing regarding vendors.

CCAO encourages members refamiliarize themselves with this Advisory Opinion and conflict of interest laws to ensure good stewardship of ARPA and Appalachia funds.

Guidance and overview of available BIL funding available from NACo and the Ohio Department of Transportation

NACo and ODOT each host a resource page providing information to counties about the Bipartican Infrastructure Law. The pages are rich with information including multiple tables providing overviews and links to funding opportunities, a timeline of upcoming grant programs, and much more.

The NACo website can be found here and the ODOT website can be found here.

CCAO strongly encourages counties to frequently visit the sites and apply for funding through the myriad of programs to bring valuable federal funds to Ohio communities.

COUNTY NEWS

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Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One county from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted.

Northwest District

Paulding commissioners discuss proposed windfarm near Grover Hill

Crescent News, December 6, 2022

Paulding County commissioners discussed another proposed windfarm near Grover Hill during a recent meeting here.

Brad Norden, operations manager for Grover Hill Wind, LLC, and Naz Adum updated commissioners on the progress in receiving approval for the windfarm surrounding Grover Hill in the southeast quadrant of Paulding County.

According to a map of the proposed project area, 23 wind turbines are proposed. Four are located southeast of Grover Hill; the remainder are northwest and southwest of the town.

A public hearing was held on one aspect of the project — a transmission line — last week while a final decision on approving the development rests with the Ohio Power Siting Board in Columbus. However, Norden informed The Crescent-News Thursday that the siting board gave partial approval Thursday.

Northeast District

Stark Job & Family Services Director Deborah Forkas to retire

Canton Repository, December 16, 2022

Stark County Job & Family Services will be getting a new executive director next year.

County commissioners have started accepting applications for the position as current Executive Director Deborah Forkas plans to retire at the end of January.

County Administrator Brant Luther said in an email the commissioners intend to advertise the post through Jan. 27. He added that the commissioners will spend whatever time is necessary interviewing and vetting candidates before making a hiring decision.

Job & Family Services provides programs and services like food assistance, child care, Medicaid, and foster care and adoption services.

Forkas became executive director of the agency in 2014. She previously served as director of Children and Family Services in Cuyahoga County and director of children, youth and families in Fairfax County, Virginia, according to her executive bio on Job and Family Services' website.

Central District

Commissioners seek construction firm for Wayne County jail expansion

Daily Record, December 14, 2022

KEY ACTION: Agreed to advertise for a construction manager at risk for new construction and renovation of the Wayne County Detention Center.

DISCUSSION: The company hired will work with plans and specifications from Strollo Architects.

Commissioner Ron Amstutz noted it is the first time a construction manager will be used for a project like this.

"I think, mainly, they should show projects they've done before that are similar to this," Amstutz said.

The contract is expected to be advertised beginning Friday.

The estimated cost of the two-phase renovation and expansion project is $33 million, according to an architect's estimate.

Southwest District

Commissioners ask for citizens' help with Broadband

Daily Advocate, December 14, 2022

The Darke County Board of Commissioners met Thursday to discuss Broadband. Commissioners Matt Aultman, Mike Stegall, Larry Holmes were present.

"We received a request to make sure our FCC maps are correct because they have an impact on funding that is anticipated to come through in 2023," Holmes said.

Right now, the maps are showing Darke County has better coverage than there actually is. Holmes said the funding is pretty high, and we "don't want to be left standing behind the door and get left out" because the map appears we do not have a need for intervention.

In order to help bring high-speed internet to all Ohioans and Darke County specifically the commissioners are asking for you to go to BroadbandMap.fcc.gov and search for your address. When you find it, click on the gear symbol and make sure 'All Wired and Licensed Fixed Wireless' is selected under Technology. Check to see if the location status is correct. If it is not, click on 'Location Change'. Next see if the listed service providers deliver at the internet speeds displayed. If not, click 'Availability Change'.

Southeast District

Jefferson County will carry surplus into 2023

WTOV.com, December 15, 2022

With the end of the year just a few weeks away, Jefferson County is looking back at its government spending for the year.

Each year, Auditor E.J. Conn and commissioners Tony Morelli, Dave Maple, and Thomas Graham balance the budget for the county's needs.

Graham said they had another successful year and even have a surplus of $2 million carrying over into 2023.

"It looks like it's going to be a good year, there's always a struggle," Graham said. "They'll have to be cuts made in terms of what the requests are and the money we have to work with. And that'll be done. We do it every year. "

DATES TO REMEMBER

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DECEMBER 18 - 26
CHAUNKAH

DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 26 - JANUARY 1
KAWNAZAA

DECEMBER 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE

JANUARY 1
NEW YEAR'S DAY

DID YOU KNOW?

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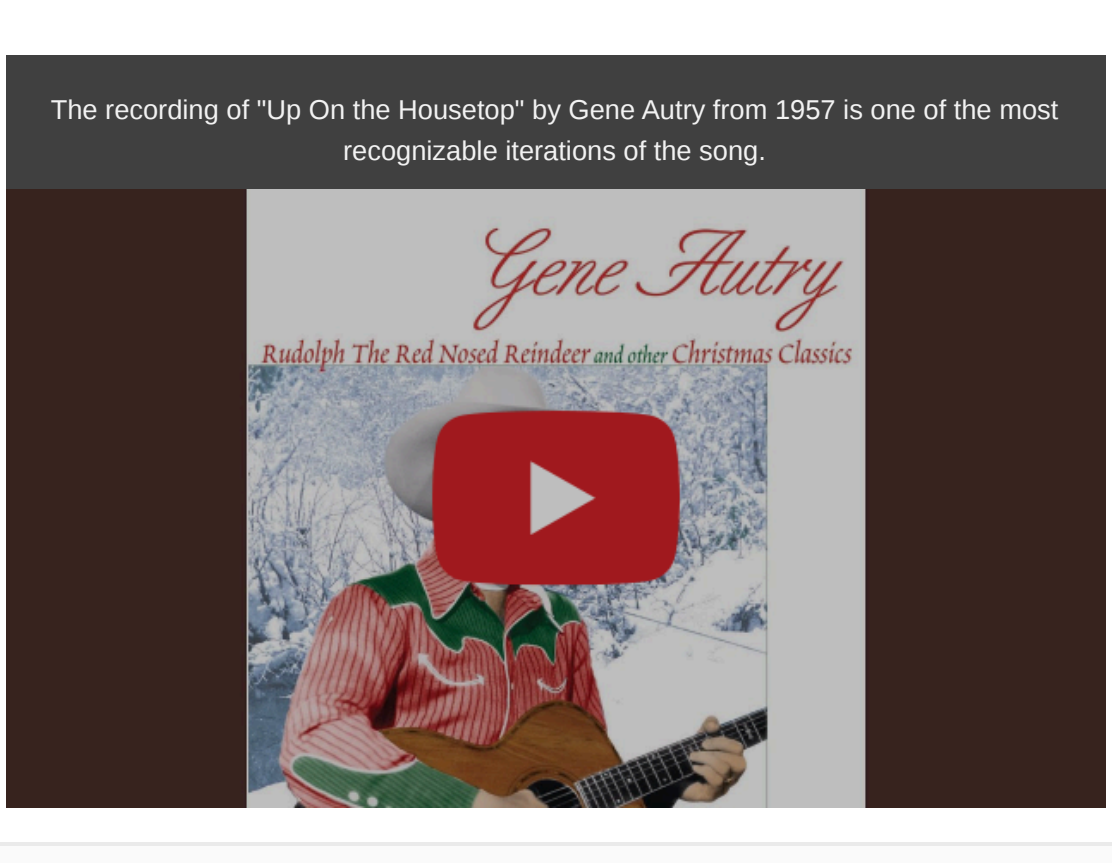
Preble County

Originally from Fairfield County, Benjamin Hanby was born in 1833 and worked as a composer, educator, pastor, and was an abolitionist. He worked across the state in various roles, but in 1864 he found himself operating a singing school in New Paris, Ohio, a small village located in Preble County.

While there he composed the iconic Christmas song, "Up On the Housetop," sometimes known as "Up on the Rooftop." The song is believed to be the second-oldest secular Christmas song and was likely inspired by the classic Christmas poem, "The Night Before Christmas."

After the song was published, the Root & Cady music publishing firm in Chicago hired Hambley. He passed away of tuberculosis in 1867 at the age of 33.

The recording of "Up On the Housetop" by Gene Autry from 1957 is one of the most recognizable iterations of the song.



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